

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

<b>In re Application of:</b>	<b>Michael Austin</b>
<b>Application No.:</b>	<b>09/966686</b>
<b>Filed:</b>	<b>October 1, 2001</b>
<b>For:</b>	<b>A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTRACTING, LOADING OR CRIMPING SELF-EXPANDING AND BALLOON EXPANDABLE STENT DEVICES</b>
<b>Examiner:</b>	<b>Marc Jimenez</b>
<b>Group Art Unit:</b>	<b>3726</b>

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: S63.2N-7405-US02

## Amendment

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated August 4, 2003.

Please amend the application as follows:

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**In Re Application of:** Michael Austin  
**Application No.:** 09/966,686  
**Filed:** October 1, 2001  
**For:** A Method and Apparatus for Contracting, Loading or Crimping Self-Expanding and Balloon Expandable Stent Devices  
**Examiner:** Marc Jimenez  
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**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL LETTER****TO:** Examiner Jimenez**DATE:** October 6, 2003**FACSIMILE NO.:** 703-872-9303**TIME:** 3:45 p.m.**GROUP ART UNIT:** 3726**TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES** (including cover letter): 9

Following please find an 8 page Amendment and 1 page Facsimile Transmittal Letter.

If a fee is required, Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350 for any required fees. To the extent that any petition is required to consider this communication, please treat this as such a petition.

Respectfully Submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT &amp; STEINKRAUS, P.A.

By:

James M. Urzedowski  
 Reg. No. 48,596

Date: October 6, 2003

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**Certificate of Transmission**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9303, on October 6, 2003.

Signature:

Rebecca M. Painschab